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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Great Lakes Regional Office

# Brownfields

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has a number of authorities for assisting States, local governments, and Native American Indian tribes in their assessment, remediation or redevelopment of brownfield sites. These programs provide cost-shared support, not grants. This fact sheet will discuss authorities which may be applicable to brownfield sites within the Great Lakes basin. These programs were authorized under the various Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

## Planning Assistance to States

**Authorization:** Section 22 of WRDA 1974, as amended.

**Program Goals:** Support States and municipalities in their comprehensive planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Section 22 can also be used in watershed and ecosystem planning.

**Application:** A Corps district is evaluating and ranking potential brownfield sites for the City of Chicago under this authority. Support might also include site characterization and development of remedial and redevelopment plans.

**Cost Sharing:** 50% Federal, 50% State, municipality or tribe

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$10,000,000 Corps-wide. The anticipated FY 1998 appropriation for this program is \$5,500,000.

## Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans

**Authorization:** Section 401 of WRDA 1990, as amended.

**Program Goals:** To provide technical, planning and engineering assistance to States and local governments in the development and implementation of remedial action plans (RAPs) for Great Lakes areas of concern.

**Application:** Corps districts are developing plans for remediation of contaminated sediments and habitat restoration in support to the Ashtabula River (Ohio) and Grand Calumet River (Indiana) RAPs. Support could include assessment and remedial design of brownfields within the area of concern.

**Cost Sharing:** 50% Federal, 50% Non-Federal

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$3,000,000. The anticipated FY 1998 appropriation for this Great Lakes program is \$500,000.

## **Beneficial Use of Dredged Material**

**Authorization:** Section 204 of WRDA 1992, as amended.

**Program Goals:** Promote beneficial uses of dredged material in connection with dredging at authorized Federal navigation projects.

**Application:** Sediments dredged from navigation channels might be used to cap and landscape a brownfield site or to restore or create wildlife habitat. A dredged material disposal facility on the Rouge River was configured to restore and protect a coastal wetland.

**Cost Sharing:** 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal.

**Budgetary:** Annual funding not to exceed \$15,000,000 Corps-wide. The anticipated FY 1998 appropriation for this program is \$2,000,000.

## **Partnerships**

Partnerships may be developed between existing or planned Corps civil works projects for flood protection or navigation and brownfield site restoration or redevelopment efforts. A Corps district has partnered with the USEPA, State and municipal governments and private industry for the construction of a disposal facility for sediments dredged from Indiana Harbor at a brownfield site with especially high levels of contamination.

## **Reimbursable Support**

Aside from the cost-shared authorities described above, the Corps can provide technical support to State, municipal and tribal agencies on a reimbursable basis. The Corps' expertise has been used by other Federal agencies and the military in the assessment and remediation of contaminated sites.

## **For More Information**

In order to obtain more information about the application of any of these programs in the Great Lakes basin, contact the following Corps District offices for areas in:

### **New York, PA and Ohio**

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Buffalo District  
716-879-4145  
Philip.E.Berkeley@usace.army.mil

### **Michigan, MN and WI**

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